



Massachusetts
Department of Correction

**Quarterly Report on the
Status of Prison Overcrowding,
First Quarter of 1997**

Submitted in Compliance with Chapter 799
Section 21 of the Acts of 1985

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1997 First Quarter Report

Section Twenty-one of Chapter 799 of the Acts of 1985 directs the Commissioner of Correction to report quarterly on the status of overcrowding in the state and county facilities. This statute calls for the following information:

Such report shall include, by facility, the average daily census for the period of the report and the actual census on the second and last days of the report period. Said report shall also contain such information for the previous twelve months and a comparison to the rated capacity of such facility.

This report presents the required statistics for the first quarter of 1997.

This report was prepared by Ramon V Raagas of Research & Planning and is based on daily count sheets prepared by the Classification Division

1997 First Quarter Report

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Technical Notes

- The official capacity or custody level designation for each facility can change for a number of reasons, e.g. expansion of facility beds, decrease of facility beds due to fire, or changes in contracts with vendors. In all tables the capacity and custody level reflects the status at the end of the reporting period. The design capacity is reported for correctional facilities in Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4.
- On November, 15, 1996, one hundred new modular beds were added to MCI Concord, increasing its design capacity to 614. Ninety-six modular beds were also added to MCI Norfolk, increasing its total to 1,084 beds. Pondville Correctional Center was reclassified from Custody Level 3/2 to Custody Level 3.
- Two hundred forty-three new modular beds were added to Middlesex (Billerica) House of Correction during November 15, 1996, increasing its total to 1,035 beds.
- Due to changes in the Massachusetts General Law, DOC consolidated one unit at the Bridgewater Treatment Center and back filled with general population inmates. These design capacity beds were placed on-line November 8, 1996 and first appeared on the November 12, 1996 daily count sheet.
- Due to the Department's policy changes, the security level of MCI-Shirley (Min) was changed from Security Level 3/2 to Security Level 3 during the first quarter of 1996.
- On January 31, 1995, the design capacity for the Departmental Segregation Units (DSU) at MCI-Cedar Junction and MCI-Norfolk were taken off the count sheets. The segregation units are considered support beds and are not shown on the daily count sheet as design capacity. This resulted in the elimination of 91 beds (60 at Cedar Junction and 31 at Norfolk) from the previous quarterly reports.
- In previous quarterly reports, the population figures for PPREP were included with the Park Drive population. The PPREP population is reported independently starting with the first quarter of 1995.
- Where relevant, the population figures for all facilities include both male and female inmates except as shown at Lancaster.
- State inmates housed in the Hampshire county contract program are included in the county population tables, as are all other state inmates housed in county facilities.
- Longwood Treatment Center is a specialized DOC facility for individuals incarcerated for OUI. Because the inmates are primarily county sentenced inmates, the inmate count and bed capacity are also included in Tables 3 and 4.
- The Massachusetts Boot Camp opened on August 17, 1992, and is located at the Bridgewater Correctional complex in Bridgewater, Massachusetts. Prior to 1993, the Boot Camp was listed as a DOC minimum security facility. In August, 1995, 128 beds were designated to security level 4 (state inmates) and 128 beds for county inmates. In October 1995, these beds were added to security level 4 design capacity, and 128 beds were added to House of Correction tables.
- Norfolk County includes Braintree, Dedham, and Norfolk Contract. Middlesex County includes both Billerica and Cambridge. Berkshire County includes the pre-release facility. Essex County includes Middleton and Lawrence Correctional Alternative Center. Bristol County includes Dartmouth, Eastern Massachusetts Alternative Center and Pre-Release.
- Nashua Street inmates housed at other facilities are reported in the counts for the facilities in which they are in custody.
- During June, 1993, Plymouth House of Correction added 833 beds increasing its total to 1,140 beds.

On April 18, 1995, new security level changes were established according to 103 DOC 101 Correctional Institutions/Custody Levels policy which states:

Custody Levels:

- **Level One.** The least restrictive in the department and is reserved only for those inmates who are at the end of their sentence and have been identified as posing little to no threat to the community. Supervision is minimal and indirect.

- **Level Two.** A custody level in which both design/construction as well as inmate classification reflect the goal of restoring to the inmate maximum responsibility and control of their own behavior and actions prior to their release. Direct supervision of these inmates is not required, but intermittent observation may be appropriate under certain conditions. Inmates within this level may be permitted to access the community unescorted to participate in programming to include, but not limited to, work release, educational release, etc.

- **Level Three.** A custody level in which both the design/construction as well as inmate classification reflect the goal of returning to the inmate a greater sense of personal responsibility and autonomy while still providing for supervision and monitoring of behavior and activity. Inmates within this security level are not considered a serious risk to the safety of staff, inmates or to the public. Program participation is mandated and geared toward their potential reintegration into the community. Access to the community is limited and under constant direct staff supervision.

- **Level Four.** A custody level in which both the design/construction as well as inmate classification reflect the goal of restoring to the inmate some degree of responsibility and control of their own behavior and actions, while still insuring the safety of staff and inmates. Design/construction is generally characterized by high security parameters and limited use of internal physical barriers. Inmates at this level have demonstrated the ability to abide by rules and regulations and require intermittent supervision. However, behavior in the community, i.e., criminal sentence and/or the presence of serious outstanding legal matters indicate the need for some control and for segregation from the community. Job and program opportunities exist for all inmates within the perimeter of the facility.

- **Level Five.** A custody level in which design/construction as well as inmate classification reflect the need to provide maximum external and internal control and supervision of inmates. Inmates accorded to this status may present an escape risk or pose a threat to other inmates, staff, or the orderly running of the institution, however, at a lesser degree than those at level 6. Supervision remains constant and direct. Through an inmates willingness to comply with institutional rules and regulations, increased job and program opportunities exist.

- **Level Six.** A custody level in which both design/construction as well as inmate classification reflect the need to provide maximum external and internal control and supervision of inmates primarily through the use of high security parameters and extensive use of internal physical barriers and check points. Inmates accorded this status present serious escape risks or pose serious threats to themselves, to other inmates, to staff, or the orderly running of the institution. Supervision of inmates is direct and constant. Inmates are confined to their cells at all times, except when they are removed for authorized activities. Inmates within their status, when removed from their cell, are typically under escort and in restraints.

Abbreviations

AC	- Addiction Center	OCCC	- Old Colony Correctional Center
ADP	- Average Daily Population	OUI	- Operating Under the Influence
ATU	- Awaiting Trial Unit	PPREP	- Pre-Parole Residential Environmental Phase Program
CRS	- Contract Residential Services Includes Charlotte House, and Houston House	PRC	- Pre-Release Center
DDU	- Departmental Disciplinary Unit	SECC	- Southeastern Correctional Ctr.
DOC	- Department of Correction	SDPTC	- Sexually Dangerous Person Treatment Center
DSU	- Departmental Segregation Unit	SMCC	- South Middlesex Correctional Center (formerly SMPRC)
HOC	- House of Correction	SH	- State Hospital
NECC	- Northeastern Correctional Center	TC	- Treatment Center (Longwood)
NCCI	- North Central Correctional Institution at Gardner		

Table 1 provides the DOC figures for the first quarter of 1997. As this table indicates, the DOC population (excluding Bridgewater SH, SDPTC, AC, Longwood TC, Mass. Boot Camp) increased by 107 inmates, or 1 percent, during the first quarter. At the end of the quarter, the DOC operated with 10,033 inmates in the system, and the average daily population was 9,931 with a design capacity of 6,806. Thus, the DOC operated at 146 percent of design capacity.

**Population in Department of Correction Facilities,
January 2, 1997 to March 31, 1997**

Custody Level/ Facility	Avg. Daily Population	Beginning Population	Ending Population	Design Capacity	% ADP Capacity
Custody Level 6					
Cedar Junction	820	818	820	633	130%
Framingham - ATU	110	114	105	64	172%
Custody Level 5					
OCCC	699	700	696	488	143%
Custody Level 4					
Concord	1,277	1,182	1,347	614	208%
Framingham	486	473	500	388	125%
Norfolk	1,519	1,518	1,517	1,084	140%
Bay State	294	295	295	266	111%
NCCI	1,019	1,013	1,020	568	179%
SECC	845	846	839	456	185%
Shirley-Medium	1,097	1,101	1,095	720	152%
Mass Boot Camp	115	108	95	128	90%
Treatment Center	50	50	50	45	111%
Sub-Total	8,331	8,218	8,379	5,454	153%
Custody Level 3					
Plymouth	185	189	186	151	123%
NECC	245	250	244	150	163%
SECC-Minimum	104	103	106	100	104%
Shirley-Lower	328	342	361	403	81%
Pondville	190	189	196	100	190%
Custody Level 3/2					
Lancaster-Male	110	201	120	94	117%
Lancaster Female	58	65	58	59	98%
SMCC	185	167	192	125	148%
Sub-Total	1,405	1,506	1,463	1,182	119%
Custody Level 2					
Boston State	90	90	87	55	164%
Park Drive	46	50	41	50	92%
Hodder House	29	30	33	35	83%
Custody Level 1					
Charlotte	8	8	7	15	53%
Houston House	10	11	9	15	67%
PPREP	12	13	14	n a	n a
Sub-Total	195	202	191	170	115%
Total	9,931	9,926	10,033	6,806	146%
Bridgewater SH	364	357	368	227	160%
Bridgewater TC	197	188	197	216	91%
Bridgewater AC	121	121	114	214	57%
Longwood TC	148	141	152	125	118%
Sub-Total	830	807	831	782	106%
Grand Total	10,761	10,733	10,864	7,588	142%
Houses of Correction	749	772	746	n a	n a
Federal Prisons	29	30	28	n a	n a
Inter-State Contract	329	316	317	n a	n a

Table 2 provides the DOC figures for the previous twelve months - i.e., for the period January 2, 1996 to December 31, 1996. These figures indicate that the DOC population increased by 333, or 4 percent, over this twelve month period (excluding Bridgewater SH, SDPTC, AC, Longwood TC, Mass. Boot Camp), from 9,433 in January, 1996 to 9,766 in December, 1996.

**Population in Department of Correction Facilities,
January 2, 1996 to December 31, 1996**

Custody Level/ Facility	Average Daily Population	Beginning Population	Ending Population	Design Capacity	% ADP Capacity
Custody Level 6					
Cedar Junction	803	807	819	633	127%
Framingham - ATU	109	75	96	64	170%
Custody Level 5					
OSCC	709	703	705	488	145%
Custody Level 4					
Concord	1,089	1,001	1,179	*614	177%
Framingham	486	460	495	388	125%
Norfolk	1,360	1,329	1,336	*1084	125%
Bay State	293	295	295	266	110%
NCCI	1,014	1,015	1,015	568	179%
SECC	851	875	849	456	187%
Shirley-Medium	1,100	1,094	1,099	720	153%
Mass. Boot Camp	109	80	116	128	85%
*Treatment Center	49	0	49	45	109%
Sub-Total	7,972	7,734	8,053	5,454	146%
Custody Level 3					
Plymouth	180	167	192	151	119%
NECC	280	235	251	150	187%
SECC-Minimum	139	103	102	100	139%
*Shirley-Lower	347	357	345	403	86%
*Pondville	194	192	188	100	194%
Custody Level 3/2					
Lancaster-Male	200	194	201	94	213%
Lancaster-Female	66	62	65	59	112%
SMCC	177	186	167	125	142%
Sub-Total	1,583	1,496	1,511	1,182	134%
Custody Level 2					
Boston State	95	96	90	55	173%
Park Drive	45	46	50	50	90%
Hodder House	27	26	30	35	77%
Custody Level 1					
Charlotte	8	7	8	15	53%
Houston House	9	6	11	15	60%
PPREP	15	22	13	n a	n a
Sub-Total	199	203	202	170	117%
Total	9,754	9,433	9,766	6,806	143%
Bridgewater SH	335	345	357	227	148%
Bridgewater TC	231	206	199	216	107%
Bridgewater AC	125	130	124	214	58%
Longwood TC	142	139	140	125	114%
Sub-Total	833	820	820	782	107%
Grand Total	10,587	10,253	10,586	7,588	140%
Houses of Correction	740	850	777	n a	n a
Federal Prisons	30	29	30	n a	n a
Inter-State Contract	334	363	316	n a	n a

(* = See Technical Notes)

Table 3 presents the county figures for the first quarter of 1997. The county population decreased by 181 inmates, or minus 1 percent during this quarter. At the end of the quarter, the county system operated with 12,353 inmates, and the average daily population was 12,411 in facilities with a total design capacity of 8,356. Thus, the county system operated at 149 percent of design capacity.

**Population in County Correctional Facilities,
January 2, 1997 to March 31, 1997**

Facility	Average Daily Population	Beginning Population	Ending Population	Design Capacity	% ADP Capacity
Barnstable	294	285	293	110	267%
Berkshire	258	262	257	116	222%
Bristol	1,258	1,293	1,270	666	189%
Dukes	20	17	17	19	105%
Essex	1,415	1,444	1,398	635	223%
Franklin	127	127	134	63	202%
Hampden	1,581	1,589	1,564	1,178	134%
Hampden-OUI	135	140	139	125	108%
Hampshire	274	272	266	248	110%
Middlesex	1,327	1,340	1,330	1,035	128%
Norfolk	610	621	590	379	161%
Plymouth	1,222	1,250	1,241	1,140	107%
Suffolk-Nashua St	626	628	646	453	138%
Suffolk-So. Bay	1,850	1,858	1,836	1,146	161%
Worcester	1,200	1,219	1,163	790	152%
Longwood TC	148	141	152	125	118%
Mass. Boot Camp	66	48	57	128	52%
Total	12,411	12,534	12,353	8,356	149%

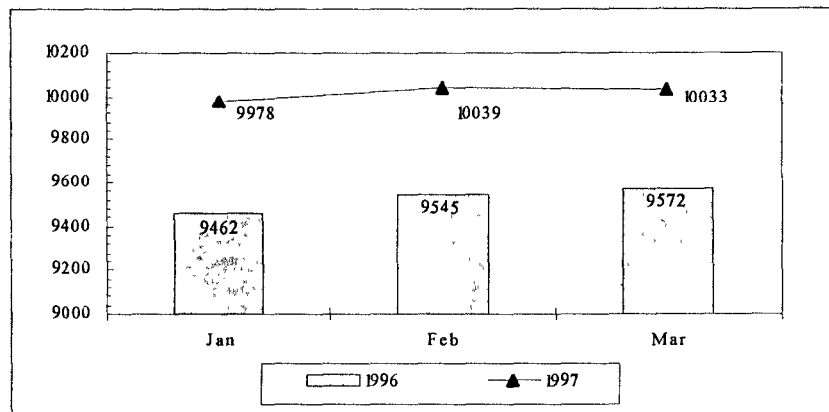
Table 4 presents the county figures for the previous twelve months. These figures indicate that the county population increased by 1,242 inmates or 12 percent over this twelve-month period, from 10,779 in January 1996, to 12,021 in December, 1996.

**Population in County Correctional Facilities,
January 2, 1996 to December 31, 1996**

Facility	Average Daily Population	Beginning Population	Ending Population	Design Capacity	% ADP Capacity
Barnstable	281	268	303	110	255%
Berkshire	245	215	249	116	211%
Bristol	1,143	1,072	1,176	666	172%
Dukes	22	25	23	19	116%
Essex	1,367	1,227	1,370	635	215%
Franklin	127	125	127	63	202%
Hampden	1,479	1,340	1,536	1,178	126%
Hampden-OUI	130	131	128	125	104%
Hampshire	261	237	266	248	105%
*Middlesex	1,290	1,218	1,276	1,035	125%
Norfolk	578	506	609	379	153%
Plymouth	1,145	1,121	1,181	1,140	100%
Suffolk-Nashua St	580	530	594	453	128%
Suffolk-So. Bay	1,666	1,447	1,830	1,146	145%
Worcester	1,204	1,085	1,164	790	152%
Longwood TC	142	139	140	125	114%
Mass. Boot Camp	98	93	49	128	77%
Total	11,758	10,779	12,021	8,356	141%

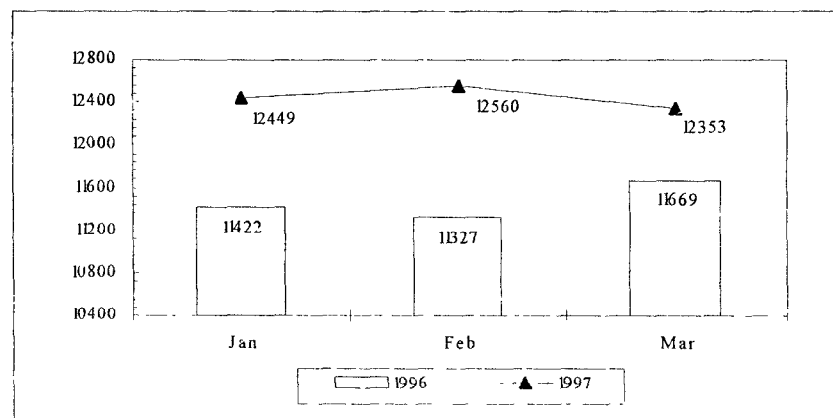
(* = See Technical Notes)

Figure 1.
DOC Sentenced Population, First Quarter of 1996 and 1997



The graph above compares the DOC sentenced population in 1996 to that in 1997. In January, 1997 the DOC population increased by 516 inmates (5%) from the same month in 1996; in February, the population increased by 494 (5%), and in March, an increase of 461 or 5 percent.

Figure 2.
HOC Population, First Quarter of 1996 and 1997



The graph above compares the HOC population in 1996 to that in 1997. In January, 1997 the HOC population increased by 1,027 inmates (9%) from the same month in 1996, in February, the population increased by 1,233 (11%), and in March an increase of 684 or 6 percent.

Note: Data for figures 1 and 2 were taken from the end of the month count sheets compiled by the Classification Division.

Table 5 provides statistics on court commitments by gender to the DOC in 1996 and 1997. Overall, there has been an increase of 8 commitments, or 1 percent for 1997 in comparison with the number of commitments in 1996, from 788 to 796. Male commitments for 1997 increased by 17, or 3 percent from 1996. Female commitments during 1997 decreased by 9, or minus 3 percent compared to the number of commitments during the same period in 1996.

Court Commitments to the DOC			
	1996	1997	Difference
Males			
First Quarter	528	545	3%
Females			
First Quarter	260	251	-3%
Total	788	796	1%

Figure 3 provides a graphical representation of the number of court commitments by gender to the DOC during the first quarter of 1996 and the first quarter of 1997

